



MINUTES OF THE MEETING
January 9, 2012

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

A meeting of the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education was held on Monday, January 9, 2012, at the University of Rhode Island, Ryan Center, Kingston, Rhode Island. Chair Lorne Adrain declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Present: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, William Maaia, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Jane Sherman, Thomas Rockett, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh and Joseph White

Absent: George Caruolo

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Vice Chair Michael Tikoian, Chair of the Facilities, Finance and Management Committee indicated that changes to the Agenda will be taken when the Facilities, Finance and Management Committee presents its report later in this meeting. At this time, he asked that the board move to approve the Agenda as presented.

On a motion duly made by Michael Tikoian and seconded by Thomas Rockett it was

VOTED:

THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education accept the agenda for the meeting of January 9, 2012.

Vote: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, William Maaia, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Jane Sherman, Thomas Rockett, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion duly made by Joan Abrams and seconded by Joseph White it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the minutes of the December 5, 2011 meeting.

Vote: 12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, William Maaia, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Jane Sherman, Thomas Rockett, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh and Joseph White

NAYS: 0

3. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Adrain welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked President Dooley and the University for hosting this evening's meeting.

In kicking off the New Year, Chair Adrain stated that there is a great deal of work to do, and a great deal of opportunity to pursue. This is a very exciting, yet challenging and difficult time for our State and the people of Rhode Island. There are continued budget constraints and a great number of worthy things for our General Assembly leaders to consider in allocation of scarce resources. He believes that the opportunities in higher education are unique; and that the Board will do its best to advocate for the funding of these opportunities by building the support of General Assembly members, and many outside resources to identify opportunities that would be beneficial to our system and for the people of Rhode Island.

5. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Joe Limanni, URI/HRL, addressed the Board with respect to the University's proposed Retirement Incentive Program. Mr. Limanni stated that he has been an employee of the University for over 30 years. He is one of the 20-24 individuals who are in the non-classified service and are members of the Employees' Retirement System. Mr. Limanni pleaded that if the Board offers any type of retirement incentive, he asks that the Board consider the 20-24 individuals in the non-classified service in their discussions. Mr. Limanni thanked the Board for their time this evening.

6. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

In response to the Retirement Incentive Program at the University, this evening the Facilities, Finance & Management Committee will present and discuss the results of their January 6th meeting. We will ask Dr. Dooley to discuss them as well. We do not expect or anticipate a vote this evening because we want to further study the issue. In addition, the Facilities, Finance & Management Committee will have four recommendations that will begin to shape higher education and the Office of Higher Education, and we look forward to their recommendations.

Earlier today we had a conference call that the Chair of the Board put together inviting both the House and Senate, the Department of Administration, the Governor's Office, all three institutions, as well as the office of Higher Education. This call was presented by the McKenzie

Group, a world re-known research group. The Group shared with us the trend in higher education and acknowledged that many in their group follow what is happening in Rhode Island. As a Board, we need to begin to have a focused strategic plan to go forward in order to begin to address many of the issues Chair Adrain stated earlier.

We are working very closely on the state budget for 2013. Over the past several weeks the Department of Administration and the Office of Higher Education has spent a lot of time together. It is anticipated that the Governor will release his budget on or about the 19th of January. Once the budget is released, it will go to our legislature where we will have lobby intensely to make sure that the budget stays intact as it comes out of the Governor's Office.

The Commissioner congratulated Associate Commissioner LaPanne on the approval of the Office of Higher Education's request for the extension of the Fire Safety Upgrades at all three institutions. This request has been approved and the institutions will now have through June 30, 2012 to complete and pay for all of the fire safety projects covered under this \$28M federal grant.

Regarding external affairs, the Commissioner noted that in the spirit of better communication, the Office of Higher Education will launch an e-newsletter, ".edu Leadership Update." This newsletter will be disseminated to Rhode Island elected officials and educational leaders. The office is also working on a new website. On March 22nd, a higher education forum will be held and we will begin to work very closely with WPRI TV with segments about each institution throughout the forum.

Congratulations to Deborah Grossman-Garber on her work on the College Access Challenge Grant. The award totals \$1.5 million and requires a \$750,000 state match. Commissioner Di Pasquale thanked the State of Rhode Island, particularly Thomas Mullaney for all of his efforts in making this happen.

On February 29th, David Coleman, a primary architect of the newly adopted Common Core State Standards, will visit Rhode Island to talk to educational leaders and Board members. The session is from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. and will be held at the Rhode Island Foundation. The Commissioner asks that everyone makes the time to attend, as this is a critical pathway to education K-20 for the future.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. BOG COMMITTEE REPORTS and RELATED CONSENT AGENDA

a. Academic and Student Affairs

Chair Walsh also extended his congratulations to Associate Commission Grossman-Garber for the College Access Challenge Grant.

The Committee in its last meeting approved a new general education program at Rhode Island College and it was exciting to see all of the work that the Rhode Island College faculty and community put into exploring the work that they did and he looks forward to seeing how the program plays out in the future.

b. Facilities, Finance and Management

1. Approval of the University Retirement Incentive Program

Governor Amy Beretta excused herself from all discussions on 8b1.

Chair Tikoian, as Commissioner Di Pasquale had indicated earlier, indicated that this item is not up for approval this evening. The Facilities, Finance & Management Committee, along with President Dooley and his staff, met on January 6, 2012 at length to discuss the program. The Committee voted to continue the matter to provide President Dooley with the time to address the issues of this plan with members of the legislature, the Governor's Office and the Treasurer's Office. President Dooley also reported to the Government Relations Committee this morning with regard to that plan as well and has provided the Government Relations Committee with talking points. The matter will be brought back again for an opportunity for questions and answers once President Dooley has had an opportunity to address the issue with others at the State House.

2. Establishment of a PK-20+ Council

This item is a result of Director Licht's Report recommending that a joint PK-20+ advisory committee be established between the Board of Governors and the Board of Regents, with membership to include two current members of the Board of Regents, two current members of the Board of Governors, the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, one member of the Governor's Workforce Board, the Governor's Policy Director or his designee and one member of the RI Economic Development Corporation. The Facilities, Finance & Management Committee has approved this matter and has put this before the Board so that it may move on the recommendation, and asks for the Board's approval to fulfill its part to establish this committee and allow Chair Adrain to appoint two members for this Advisory Committee.

On a motion duly made by Michael Tikoian and seconded by Eva-Marie Mancuso it was

VOTED:	That	the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the establishment of a PK-20+ Council and provides active leadership to begin this Council's work.
	Vote:	12 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, William Maaia, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Jane Sherman, Thomas Rockett, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh and Joseph White
	NAYS:	0

3. The three institutions to work with the Associate Commissioner of Finance to develop a five-year operational plan.

In an attempt to stabilize tuition, the Finance Committee thought it would be appropriate to establish and ask the various schools under the direction of the Associate Commissioner of Finance to come up with a five-year operational plan with an objective to try to freeze tuitions for two or three out of the five years, if possible. The Committee wishes to send a message to the people of Rhode that the it is committed to stabilizing tuition so that it does not continue to raise in the rate is has in the past.

On a motion duly made by Michael Tikoian and seconded by Tessa Constant it was

VOTED:	That	the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves a directive for the three institutions to work with the Associate Commissioner of Finance to develop a five-year operational plan.
	Vote:	12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, William Maaia, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Jane Sherman, Thomas Rockett, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh and Joseph White
	NAYS:	0

4. Establishment of a centralized task force to explore system wide collaborations and consolidations.

Chair Tikoian presented item 8b4 as an additional recommendation of Director Licht's report. The Finance Committee has approved and asks for the Board's approval to authorize the Associate Commissioner for Finance and the Commissioner to work together and establish a task force with the various schools to review services that may be beneficial or can reduce costs by centralization of those services, i.e., payroll administration, grievance procedure administration, purchasing, information technology, legal services and any additional types of consolidation efforts in an attempt to stabilize tuitions.

Commissioner Di Pasquale indicated that this recommendation echoes Governor White's earlier proposal at the last meeting. He stated that this begins to give us the mechanism that Governor White so desired, and begins to look at all institutions from everything from institutional services to administration, payroll, human resource, purchasing, finance, management, and much more.

The Board discussed the limited resources to complete this exercise and concurred that a specific timeline may not be feasible.

On a motion duly made by Michael Tikoian and seconded by Jane Sherman it was

VOTED:	That	the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the establishment of a centralized task force to explore system wide collaborations and consolidations.
	Vote:	12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, William Maaia, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Jane Sherman, Thomas Rockett, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh and Joseph White
	NAYS:	0

5. Establishment of a plan of implementation and financing of a full-time Commissioner's function and the associated support staffing in order to achieve the missions of the Board and the Office of Higher Education.

Chair Tikoian again indicated that Item 8b5 is also a direct result of Director Licht's report, wherein Director Licht suggests that the Office of Higher Education should be the leader of higher education. For that to be done, Director Licht has concluded that the Commissioner's position should be that and that by itself. The Finance Committee has asked Commissioner Di Pasquale to present a plan and a budget to be sent to the Governor's Office for inclusion in his overall budget separating the position of President of CCRI and the Commissioner of Higher Education. Chair Tikoian explained that by no means is this a criticism of our Commissioner. He added that the Board is fortunate to have him. He continued, stating the Commissioner is resourceful, available to the Board, and indicated that the members of the Board have learned a lot from the Commissioner in a very short period of time. The Commissioner has been gracious and professional about this and is presently in discussions with Director Licht's Office.

Governor Mancuso noted that the prior board found a creative way to fund the position and to have a Commissioner of Higher Education. After having a failed search for a new Commissioner, the previous Board worked on ways that would allow President Di Pasquale to perform the duties of Commissioner. The position is not properly funded and also the supporting infrastructure and staff has not been there. The Board needs to put together a plan that is going to result in someone of the Commissioner's caliber to apply for the position on a full time basis, and also needs to work on having the FTEs within the Office of Higher Education reinstated so that any individual who applies for the position sees that Rhode Island is committed to the Office of Higher Education and the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

Chair Adrain thanked Vice Chair Tikoian for all of his hard work in reviewing Director Licht's report. Governor Tikoian worked on identifying items in the report that the Board may take action on and to coordinate the activities of the various committees of the Board.

On a motion duly made by Michael Tikoian and seconded by Thomas Rockett it was

VOTED:	That	the Board of Governors for Higher Education approves the establishment of a workgroup charged with the development of a plan for the implementation and financing of a full-time Commissioner's function and the associated support staffing in order to achieve the mission of the Board and the Office of Higher Education.
	Vote:	12 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta, Tessa Constant, William Maaia, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Jane Sherman, Thomas Rockett, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh and Joseph White
	NAYS:	0

c. Government Relations

Chair Mancuso stated that this morning, the Government Relations Committee continued the discussions of last Friday's Facilities, Finance & Management Committee. Chair Mancuso advised that the Government Relations Committee is well represented by all three institutions. Legislative liason of all three institutions as well as staff members of the House and the Senate were also present at the meeting this morning. The Committee has set forth its legislative priorities for higher education workshops for legislators. It is very important that legislators know what the Office of Higher Education does. With the assistance of Michael Trainor and also the institutions, the Committee will be setting forth some time to provide information to legislators so that they get to know, and better understand the role of the Office of Higher Education.

Chair Mancuso was pleased to report that in the very short time of this Board's existence, it has come full circle on an issue. After the Government Relations Committee approved amendments to the Board's Residency Policy to offer in-state tuition for undocumented students, the matter came before the full Board, and it voted to offer in-state tuition to undocumented students. Associate Commissioner Grossman-Garber took the lead with the institutions, and an application has been compiled along with the affidavit that must be signed by the individual applying for in-state tuition. All criteria necessary to apply for the Fall semester of 2012 has been completed.

Lastly, Chair Mancuso reported that the Committee has been made aware of attempts to change the legislation to allow for profit institutions in our higher education system. The Committee will continue to monitor the legislation when the session opens.

With respect to the University's Retirement Incentive Program, the Committee has set up meetings with legislators and members of the Governor's Office to continue to educate them on the project going forward. Along with Dr. Dooley, who has taken the lead on this, the Committee will assist in any way to facilitate those meetings.

Chair Adrain thanked Chair Mancuso and the Government Relations Committee members for great work in setting up a mechanism for keeping the General Assembly apprised of what is going on with the Board and the system of higher education.

d. Personnel

Chair White did not present a report this evening.

e. Quality, Continuous Improvement and Innovation

Chair Beretta reported that the Committee continues to work on its quality assessment and metrics. The Committee did receive solicit feedback with regard to the process document, a process by which the Board of Governors will consider issues and how to deal with them. The Committee also received feedback from Board members and expects to have it finalized and brought before the full Board for approval at its January 23, 2012 meeting.

Chair Adrain thanked Governor Beretta for all her good work.

f. Student Advisory

Chair Constant reported that the Student Advisory Committee held its first meeting on December 8, 2011. The URI student leaders noted an improvement on URI's campus community toward the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender students and staff and noted that it has increased URI's ratings on the safety index.

Graduate students at the University have indicated that they feel the University has a very positive administration, there are many people working to provide focus to inter-disciplinary students and research. Two major concerns of the graduate students are funding and housing, as funding has been cut in recent years due to the economic climate. The graduate students would like URI to increase graduate assistants' opportunities and housing for its graduate students.

The University community noted that the University has made several recent campus improvements.

At Rhode Island College, the students noted that in an effort to be more competitive, the College has made many recent improvements in its technology based classrooms. Also, with the assistance of a state grant, the College has improved its roads and traffic conditions on the campus.

All members of the Student Advisory Committee have expressed the need for an inter-institutional communication platform for students in light of the plans to develop a website for the Board of Governors in the near future. A motion was made and the following resolution was adopted:

THAT the Student Advisory Committee recommend that the updated RIBGHE site contain a page for students with some condensed up-to-date information and with links to URI's, RIC's and CCRI's student government pages and the contact information for each student government body.

The Student Advisory Committee expresses concern over the trend of continued tuition increases as it will impact access, persistence and degree completion.

Vice Chair Tikoian asked that the Resolution incorporated by the Student Advisory Committee be included in the next agenda for the Board's meeting on January 23, 2012 for discussion and action.

Chair Adrain thanked Governor Constant for taking the time with students at all three institutions and keeping the Board informed.

9. ADDITIONAL CONSENT AGENDA

None.

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

a. Community College of Rhode Island

President Di Pasquale reported that enrollment at the College for Spring 2012 is on target. The unduplicated headcount is over 15,000, and the College has made the decision to drop approximately 1,500 students for non-payment which is not unusual. In these very difficult economic times many students continue to struggle. The College will continue to work with these students and it is expected that many of them will come back.

The College continues to attract many grants to the institution. The Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, Trustee has awarded the college a \$100,000 grant to support the "College Now for Students Without a High School Credential" program, which was designed to increase the number of nontraditional students who enter post-secondary education and complete a certificate or degree after earning their GED credential.

President Di Pasquale announced that Dr. Cap Frank has joined the college as the Program Director for Pathways to Advance Career Education (the PACE program). This program is a \$3.4 million dollar Trade Adjustment Assistant Grant that President Obama initiated throughout the United States. Dr. Frank has an extensive background in managing federal grants and training projects. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting, his master's degree in adult education and counseling from URI, and his doctorate in program evaluation and public administration from Cornell University.

Lastly, President Di Pasquale announced that he has been asked to be the Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship Breakfast keynote speaker on January 16, 2012. The event is hosted by the RI Ministerial Alliance and all proceeds provide scholarships to underprivileged students throughout Rhode Island.

Chair Adrain congratulated and thanked President Di Pasquale for being the keynote speaker at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship Breakfast.

b. University of Rhode Island

President Dooley proudly welcomed Kerry Bennett as the new Director of Government and External Relations. Ms. Bennett has a long and distinguished career working in areas of government relations, public relations and politics. She has worked as a staffer for Senator Reed, then Congressman Reed and Congressman Kennedy. She has worked with Brown University, the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority and most recently the Rhode Island Foundation. The University community is delighted to have Ms. Bennett on board.

c. Rhode Island College

President Carriuolo spoke about the College's environmental sustainability. Both she and the Director of Continuing Education at Rhode Island College appeared on Peter Arpin's Sustainability Green Program over the weekend.

President Carriuolo will be serving on the Search Advisory Committee which will be selecting the superintendent of Providence Public Schools.

The College is now offering a new certificate of Continuing Study, Green Enterprise Management, a non-credit program for small business, non-profits and agency employees.

There is also a new education course on the teaching and practice of environmental sustainability. This course will provide educators with literacy methods and materials including sustainability in the school curriculum. The Course recognizes Commissioner Gist's identification of literacy and sustainability as an objective for all Rhode Island Students.

Lastly, President Carriuolo announced that Jason J. Masterson, a graduate of Rhode Island College's School of Education, and the Assistant Principal at North Cumberland Middle School, was named 2012 Assistant Principal of the year by the Rhode Island Association of School Principals.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session held this evening.

13. NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, January 23, 2012, 5:30 p.m. at Rhode Island College,
Student Ballroom, Providence

Monday, March 19, 2012, 5:30 p.m. at the University of Rhode Island,
Coastal Institute, Narragansett

14. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Eva-Marie Mancuso and seconded by Michael Tikoian it was

VOTED: That the Board of Governors for Higher Education adjourn.

Vote: 12 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members
voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Lorne Adrain, Joan Abrams, Antonio Barajas, Amy Beretta,
Tessa Constant, William Maaia, Eva-Marie Mancuso, Jane
Sherman, Thomas Rockett, Michael Tikoian, John Walsh and
Joseph White

NAYS: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Sherman, Secretary